

LEGISLATIVE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AUTISM
Task Force on Education and Professional Development
November 21, 2006
Task Force Process and Implementation

This task force was convened to assist the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism in providing recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor for improving the lives of Californians with autism and their families. The legislation that established the commission, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 51 (Perata), Resolution Chapter 124, Statutes of 2005, mandates that “the Commission shall identify gaps in programs, services related to the education and treatment of children, adolescents, and transitional youth with autism spectrum disorders and provide recommendations to close the identified gaps.”

The commission is indebted and grateful to the participants of this important task force. We are energized by the prospect of the recommendations and “work product” that will emanate from the diverse talents represented within this group. Given the timeframe for completing this work, it is proposed that the task force process be organized into three meetings as follows:

- **Meeting 1** would focus on the identification of major problems and gaps, particularly those that are amenable to state policy intervention. The task force will be asked to consider the list of cross-cutting themes identified during the first commission meeting, and to identify and distill the major problems and gaps. Participants will receive a handout identifying the cross-cutting themes and some additional questions that can help stimulate thinking.
- **Meeting 2** would begin with a review of the problems and gaps identified during the first meeting and addition of any others. Then the majority of the meeting would be structured to focus on the identification of solutions, strategies, and opportunities to close the gaps.
- **Meeting 3** would provide an opportunity to review the findings from the first two meetings and to adopt specific recommendations to present to the commission.

The three task force meetings are scheduled for: Tuesday, November 21st in Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University; Wednesday December 13th in Oakland at the Regional Center of the East Bay, 7677 Oakport St., Suite 300; and Wednesday January 17th in Sacramento, location to be announced.

This same process will be used for the two other task forces so there will be consistency in the products presented to the commission